

The following Listing of the Claims will replace all prior versions and all prior listings of the claims in the present application:

Please cancel Claims 1-3.

Please add the following new claims 4-15.

Listing of The Claims:

1. Canceled
2. Canceled
3. Canceled
4. (New) An isolated oligoribonucleotide consisting of two separate complementary strands (dsRNA),

wherein the dsRNA is not more than 21 nucleotides in length,

wherein the dsRNA does not comprise a full length RNA transcript of a mammalian target gene,

wherein one strand of the dsRNA is complementary to less than the full length of an RNA transcript of said mammalian target gene,

and wherein the oligoribonucleotide specifically inhibits the expression of said mammalian target gene.
5. (New) The oligoribonucleotide of claim 4, wherein said dsRNA consists of a length of between 15 and 21 nucleotides.
6. (New) The oligoribonucleotide of claim 4, wherein the RNA transcript is a primary or a processed RNA.

7. (New) The oligoribonucleotide of claim 4, wherein said oligoribonucleotide is modified so as to be resistant to RNA degradation.

8. (New) The oligoribonucleotide of Claim 4, wherein said one strand of said dsRNA is fully complementary to less than the full length of an RNA transcript of a mammalian target gene.

9. (New) The oligoribonucleotide of Claim 4 or 8, wherein said two separate complementary strands are fully complementary to each other.

10. (New) An isolated oligoribonucleotide consisting of two RNA strands which are fully complementary to each other (dsRNA) and a linker between the two RNA strands,

wherein the dsRNA is not more than 21 nucleotides in length,

wherein one strand of the dsRNA is fully complementary to an RNA transcript of a mammalian target gene,

and wherein the oligoribonucleotide specifically inhibits the expression of said mammalian target gene.

11. (New) The oligoribonucleotide of claim 10, wherein the linker is a polyethylene glycol linker.

12. (New) The oligoribonucleotide of claim 10, wherein the RNA transcript is a primary or a processed RNA.

13. (New) The oligoribonucleotide of claim 10, wherein said oligoribonucleotide is modified so as to be resistant to RNA degradation.

14. (New) The oligoribonucleotide of claim 10, wherein the dsRNA has a length of between 15 and 21 nucleotides in length.

15. (New) The oligoribonucleotide of Claim 10, wherein said one strand of said dsRNA is fully complementary to less than the full length of an RNA transcript of a mammalian target gene.